STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 601   By: Rader

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the death penalty; creating the
Death Penalty Moratorium Act; providing short title;
staying the execution of judgments in all death
penalty cases; prohibiting the Court of Criminal
Appeals from ordering the execution of judgments in
death penalty cases; prohibiting the setting of
execution dates; vacating all current execution
dates; suspending all statutes related to death
penalty sentences; returning death penalty statutes
to full force and effect upon repeal of the Death
Penalty Moratorium Act; providing construing
provision; creating the Death Penalty Reform Task
Force; providing purpose of the task force; providing
for membership; establishing date for appointing
members; setting organizational meetings; providing
for the selection of a chair and vice chair; stating
primary function of the task force; authorizing the
task force to collaborate with other agencies,
organizations, entities, and educational
institutions; providing quorum requirements; making
meetings of the task force subject to the Oklahoma
Open Meeting Act; prohibiting compensation or travel
reimbursement; directing the Department of
Corrections to provide staffing and administrative
support; requiring the submission of certain report
to the Legislature and Governor; providing for
codification; providing for noncodification; and
declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1.   NEW LAW   A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1001a-1 of Title 22, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Death Penalty Moratorium Act".

SECTION 2.   NEW LAW   A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1001a-2 of Title 22, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A.   The execution of the judgment in all cases where a sentence of death has been imposed is hereby stayed until further act of the Legislature.

B.   The Court of Criminal Appeals shall not order execution of the judgment in cases where a sentence of death has been imposed.

C.   No further execution dates shall be set by the Court of Criminal Appeals or by the Governor.

D.   All execution dates currently in place at the time of the effective date of this act shall be vacated.

SECTION 3.   NEW LAW   A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1001a-3 of Title 22, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A.   All statutes governing the execution of the penalty of death in this state are hereby suspended. Upon repeal of this act by the Legislature, any such statute that has not otherwise been repealed shall return to full force and effect.

B.   The provisions of this act shall not be construed to vacate the individual judgments in cases where a sentence of death has been imposed.

SECTION 4.   NEW LAW   A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A.   There is hereby created until November 30, 2029, the Death Penalty Reform Task Force to study and report on the progress of implementing reforms to the use of the death penalty in this state.

B.   The task force shall be comprised of five (5) members to be appointed as follows:

1.   One member to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

2.   One member to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

3.   One member to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

4.   One member to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and

5.   One member to be appointed by the Governor.

C.   Appointments to the task force shall be made within sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act.

D.   The task force shall conduct an organizational meeting no later than November 1, 2025. A chair and vice chair shall be selected to serve by the membership of the task force at the

organizational meeting. The task force may meet as often as may be required to perform the duties imposed upon the task force.

E.   The primary function of the task force shall be to create reports describing in detail the degree to which the recommendations contained in the 2017 Report of the Oklahoma Death Penalty Review Commission have been put into effect in this state. The task force may coordinate, communicate, and collaborate with state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, public and private health care entities, and state educational institutions regarding issues associated with the death penalty.

F.   A quorum of the task force members shall be required to approve any final action of the task force. For purposes of this subsection, three members of the task force shall constitute a quorum.

G.   The meetings of the task force shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

H.   Members of the task force shall receive no compensation or travel reimbursement.

I.   The Department of Corrections shall provide staff and administrative support for the task force.

J.   The task force shall electronically submit a report of its findings no later than November 30, 2026, to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor, such report to be supplemented and updated on

November 30 of each year thereafter until the termination of the task force.

SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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